

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 EA-07 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /036 W

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R 081603Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6838

INFO CAMP PENDLETON CA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, UNHCR, GB

SUBJ: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN GABON

PENDLETON FORN ATF SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

REF (A) CAMP PENDLETON 0004 0 011624Z SEP 75;
(B) LIBREVILLE 1314

1. EMBOFF REVIEWED CONTENTS REF A SEPTEMBER 3 WITH MFA OFFICIAL DESIGNATED AT EARLIER MEETING AS CONTACT FOR RESETTLEMENT ISSUE. RAISED SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OF INTERESTED REFUGEES AND ALSO POINTED OUT ADVANTAGES TO GOG IN ESTABLISHING SKILL PRIORITIES AND OTHER QUALIFICATIONS TO ALLOW PRESCREENING OF APPLICATIONS TO REDUCE THEM TO MANAGEABLE LEVEL.

2. MFA OFFICIAL REPORTED ON SEPTEMBER 6 FONMIN OKUMBA'S REPLY AS FOLLOWS:

A. GOG CANNOT HANDLE LARGE NUMBERS OF APPLICATIONS. PREFER RECEIVING 150 - MAXIMUM 200.

B. NO PRIOR CONDITIONS WILL BE SET, BUT CURRICULA VITAE SHOULD SPECIFY AGE, LANGUAGE ABILITY, FAMILY SIZE AND SKILL(S).

C. THERE IS NO REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED IN GABON. HOWEVER, SPECIFIC ISSUES OF HOUSING AND
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TRAINING WILL BE CONSIDERED AFTER DETERMINATION MADE

OF REFUGEES TO BE RESETTLED.

D. NO WAY TO PREDETERMINE IF REFUGEES SHOULD BE RESETTLED INDIVIDUALLY OR AS VILLAGE PRIOR THEIR SELECTION. HOWEVER, NO OBJECTION PER SE TO RESETTLEMENT AS VILLAGE (ALSO SEE REF B).

3. COMMENT: IF NUMBER APPLICANTS TO BE REDUCED TO PROCESSABLE LEVEL, WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS WHICH PEOPLE MOST QUALIFIED FOR GABON. AGREE WITH SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATOR THAT FISHING VILLAGE WOULD BE MOST SUITABLE GROUP. SUGGEST THIS BE ESTABLISHED AS PRE-SCREENING CRITERION AND ONLY CURRICULA VITAE OF REFUGEES COMPATIBLE IN SUCH VILLAGE WOULD BE FORWARDED GOG. IF NUMBER STILL EXCESSIVE, SUGGEST CAMP PENDLETON OFFICIALS USE JUDGEMENT IN SELECTING MOST QUALIFIED 200. GOOD HEALTH, YOUTH, FRENCH LANGUAGE ABILITY, SELF-RELIANCE AND ABILITY TO FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY WITHOUT SUPPORT OR STRUCTURE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT ASSETS TO REFUGEE'S SUCCESS HERE. THIN CADRES IN GOG ADMINISTRATION TAXED BEYOND CAPACITY BY GABONESE ECONOMIC BOOM. REFUGEES WILL NOT HAVE MUCH EFFECTIVE HELP FOR RESETTLEMENT, OTHER THAN PERHAPS RECEIVING FREE LAND TO ESTABLISH VILLAGE (SEE REF B).STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LIBREV01423
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750310-0384
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750974/aaaacobm.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ITFE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE IN GABON PENDLETON FORN ATF SENIOR CIVIL COORDINATOR
TAGS: SREF, GB, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006